

Chronology of Trotskyism to Sorting Archival Material

(Undated; Found in Forward Group Files)

1. 1926 to 1933

Founding of Canadian Trotskyist movement following the holding of the Comintern Congress in 1926. Between 1926 and 1928, and parallel to the U.S. experience, the movement continued to work within the C.P. This period culminated with the expulsion of Spector and McDonald from the C.P.C. in 1928 and Spector moving to the United States. The Trotskyist movement continued to orient itself towards the C.P. despite growing hostility and the ultra-leftism of the third period.

2. 1933 to 1939

This period saw the Trotskyist movement deepening its roots in Vancouver and Toronto. Many Trotskyists were delegates at the founding convention of the C.C.F. in Regina in 1933 coming as delegates from industrial unions in these cities and played an important role during this convention. From 1933 until 1939, the Trotskyist movement sunk roots in the different trade unions as well as ethnic communities, especially Ukrainian and Yiddish. It was also the time when subsequent leaders of the movement such as Ross and Murray Dowson joined.

3. 1939 to 1945

This period covered the war years. A time of suppression and repression of a much reduced movement. The movement was effectively illegalized, comrades were recruited into the armed forces. Comrades continued their fight against opportunist united front tactics of the C.P. while working in the C.C.F. which experienced growth towards the end of the war years.

4. 1945 to 1952

The movement reconstituted itself aggressively and grew during the post-war radicalization. This period saw massive gains in trade unionism and worker militancy (e.g. Hamilton steel strike in 1948). During this period, Ross ran for mayor of Toronto several times coming a strong second and gaining approximately 20,000 votes. Between 1949 and 1952 during the Korean War years there was an intensification of cold warism and the movement suffered several splits culminating in the division of the movement between Pabloites and others paralleling the crisis in the Fourth

International.

1952 to 1959

The movement was reduced to forces centred around the Socialist Information Centre in Vancouver and Socialist Educational League in Toronto. C.C.F. work had declined and the splits had left cadres weak though hardened. Outside of the peace movement and some defence work, the movement focused on educational work.

1959 to 1964

The S.E.L and S.I.C. united into the League for Socialist Action coinciding with the founding of the New Democratic Party. The Black struggle and work around the Cuban and South African revolutions emerged as a focus for the L.S.A. New cadre recruited from the peace movement were revitalizing the youth section. Our work in the New Democratic youth and subsequent expulsions resulted in a period of rapid renewed recruitment.

1964 to 1972

This period saw the Trotskyist movement develop a strong cross-country youth organization with a deepening of the youth and student radicalization. The Young Socialists/League des Jeunes Socialistes and L.S.A. provided the leadership to the anti-Vietnam war movement and grew to have 350 members. Trotskyism emerged as the alternative on the campuses while the Quebecois comrades recruited radicalizing Francophone nationalist youth developing an organization of close to 100. The quiescence of the working class reflected itself in the more limited and uneven growth of the L.S.A./L.S.O. Youth comrades provided leadership to the anti-war, student, Women's, pro-Cuban, anti-colonial and anti-racist struggles.

1972 to 1974

This period saw the Trotskyist movement split as ultra-left groupiscules such as the Old Mole and Red Circle coalesced into the Revolutionary Communist Tendency within the movement. The Riddell leadership adapted to this ultra-leftism abandoning the movement's position on Canadian nationalism and the N.D.P. resulting in 30 older comrades reconstituting themselves as the Socialist League. Many members left political activity during this time.

197~~4~~⁵ to 1983

The Socialist League changed its name to the Forward Group in 1975 reflecting its more modest numerical strength. Forward was published until approximately 1983 when the group which had already stopped holding forums ceased publishing a regular paper. The Forward Group rooted itself in N.D.P. work trying to maintain the Left Caucus during this time which was also in a state of decline. This period saw the organizational weakening and/or disintegration of many groups on the revolutionary left.

1983 to 1994

The Forward Group continues its organizational existence though weak in numbers and unable to recruit. Individual comrades involved in leadership positions in important struggles including the legal opposition to the security service and opposition to funding of separate schools. Important tactical alliances and contacts are made though the drift of the N.D.P. to the right prevents any cohesive reorientation of the N.D.P. left.

19317 B alleged criticism of a resolution of the plenum on situation in Toronto
✓ 8 page document - attack on Spector by Tor Br majority submission to NC
charges Spector even after 6th Congress ~~helped~~ helped expell the very forces that subsequently formed core of Toronto CO - led by Roth Jewish YCL
- knew score 3 yrs - brought nothing to CO
charges Clavement + Panitch with betraying CO to Soviets - charges under direction
attaches Silver Clavement + Quarter - supporters of Spector - Butler tried to org CP
quotes resolution as affirming this group is majority of Tor Br
Roth chief exponent of this majority
Cannon + Swire dragged in - alleges factional struggle in NC
it appears that the Tor Br was divided by Spector into 2 groups

✓ 5 pages on Militarism - Statement drawn up on request of Spartacus Youth
✓ letter to Cannon from Can Executive protesting Appeals line on Max Federman
insite into CP attack on Federman - Sal Bergshte split by Simon

✓ Socialist Action June 15/38
✓ Statement of Soc Policy Group Vol 1 No 2 - Tor April 25/38
✓ SWL NC evaluation of CCF entry Feb 16/39 -
characterized minority's behaviour as unbold
states entry decided at time our ranks increasingly discouraged + demoralized
makes evaluation of CCF that would forbid entry
evaluation proves falsity of entry
"in pointing out that the entry didn't fulfil or hopes it was fair to conclude ^{this was} justified"

✓ Copy of a statement apparently circulated to anti entry minority
✓ 2 page statement uphold the authority of the EC against Toronto membership no date
✓ Socialist Policy Group (in CC) pol statement no names

✓ Declaration on Status of IEC following war + split in SWP with endorsement of
Richardson for Canada
declaration set up a Pan American center with aim to reestablish a new IEC
initiative taken by US Can + Mexicans in calling a Pan Am Conf
3 pages
Call itself on another page but not complete

✓ 27 page document (incomplete) attaching Burney's portion of support of SWP
minority - it would appear that Burney documented differences with
majority before leaving - where are they? But this comes

- / Note to East York CCYM on United Front
- / Plan for org of a non partisan Labor Defence Organization (No author or date)
- / Election leaflet WJ Smith Reeve Candidate of W.P. of C ^{4 Turp}
- / Election leaflet Bill Pullerworth deputy Reeve Ward 3 ^{4 Turp} SWL
- / Internal Bulletin W.P. of C #3 Oct/34 - on Cdn Congress Against War & Fascism
- / The first published by Winnipeg & Branch of W.P. of C
- / Joint May Day 1939 - SWL and LRWP
- Anti Kerensky visit leaflet - joint LRWP & (Cdn Section of Bureau for Y & Intl)?
- / Statement on expulsions that founded LRWP
evaluation of Toronto Branch
- / IB of SWL May/4, No 1 for proletarianization of Cdn section
- / 24 pgs document on Situation in Cdn group - no author or date
- very serious work ? 1935
- / Watsons Defence leaflet
- ✓ Western Report - from 3 comrades who took a tour following expulsion of J. P.
- ✓ Quebec DCF left wing statement 1945?
- / Letter to Toronto Branch from Krehm supporters (status?) no date
- ✓ letter to SPO (Chevestone?) suggesting discussions with view to fusion
- / Statement proposing the expulsion of Mill J. El Example No date
transfers of others - no date
- / letter to Pan American Secretariat informing it that we are going to collaborate with LRWP date & signature removed - 1938-39
- ✓ Minutes of Conference with Krehm where Shactman proposes immediate LRWP+SWL unification
- / Barney letter of resignation - page from an IB of the SWP Nov 1/69 1939?
- ✓ Newspaper clipping on Henry Beattie's experience in Spain Sept 11/
- ✓ LRWP publishes Beattie plus reply to Clarion
- ✓ Resoln of All Amer & Pacific Pre Conf (April-May/38) Concerning re unification of Cdn Trotskyist
- ✓ Document Cdn Capitalism & the Strategy of the Party Movement adopted May 28/38 by EC
Several copies - some don't have adoption notation on them

(Found in 1973)
files

963 — May 19 — to Rome

June 1, 23 — London

June 15 — Algeria

July 20 — Vancouver

tour thro West-Algeria

Aug 11 — back to Toronto

1967 — Feb 2 — Vancouver — London Ont — Tor — Feb 19
June 25 — Mexico City — Oct 14 — Nova Scotia

1968 — ~~Europe~~ April 2 — Scotland Brussels
28 — leave from Scotland to Toronto — Hamilton,
Edmonton Vanc
until June 9 — Toronto — Niagara Falls Buffalo NY

1971 — Jan 25 — Edmonton — Montreal
Feb 18 — Aug 21 — Europe — Brussels Paris London Switzerland England
Germany — France London
Toronto July 1 —

1970 — March 5 — Europe — arrived Montreal Mar 19
Sept 17 — Europe — Brussels — London Paris
Nov — 1 — 45 days
July 9 — returned from Brussels